

West Virginia Writers' Project
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Millpoint, W. Va.

Mrs A.W McNeill & Georgie Loudermilk Buckeye, W. Va.

C.W Price and Carey Davis Marlinton.

A part from R.W Browns history of Greenbank District



And Industry. Samuel G Smith Hillsboro. W. Va. Pocahontas County.

The pioneers of Pocahontas County went through with many hardships not only in clearing the land, into fertile fields, blazing trails, fighting the Indians and establishing and maintaining homes it fell on the shoulders of the housewife to furnish the necessary clothing and bedding for the entire family which was generally made of wool which was shorn often times by the wife washed, carded and spun by her into various kinds of clothing which was used by her family the socks and other clothing were made of wool spun on the old Spinning Wheel which was generally used in the winter months. From this wool socks, sweaters, blankets and other clothing and bedding was made almost entirely by hand and it was about this time that the Loom came into use by the pioneers of Pocahontas County way back in the first part of the eighteenth century.

During the eighteenth century and in the first part of the nineteenth century Pocahontas County had many looms and many weavers as most of the women folks were taught to spin and weave at an early age.

Among some of the weavers brought to the attention of the writer was Fancy Patton of Millpoint who wove on a Loom in the middle of the eighteenth century she being a fancy weaver making mostly tablecloths and Counterpane some of which are held by the Wallaces at Millpoint. Her daughter Elizabeth Ruckman the wife of Wallace Ruckman was also a weaver and a spinner as she often times clipped the sheen worked the wool up into the yarn.

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When finished it was put into a suit of clothes for her husband. She also wove for other people namely bedspreads and counterpanes and carpet her loom was bought from the late Mrs. Isaac McNeel of Millpoint in 1897 and she wove on it until 1918 just before her death.

Edith
William H Gabbert was born in Greenbrier County 1840 the son of Stewart ~~and~~ Gabbert he being a frale young man his mother taught him to weave on the loom, when he was about 30 years of age they moved to Millpoint and located over the millrace in what was known as the loom house here he wove Coverlets, counterpanes, table linen, girthen carpet, jeans and lincy some of which his daughter Mary Turner is the proud owner some of the wool used by him was carded on the old Wellington T Hogsett carding machine at the lower mill at Millpoint, he later moved to Huntersville where he practiced his profession selling his ware to friends and neighbors locally, in his declining years he moved in with his daughter Mary Turner at Marvin Chapel above Millpoint where he continued to weave and did so up until his death in 1920. His work is in the hands of many people of Pocahontas County as he often went from house to house where-ever they had a loom his last loom was bought from Lura Waugh of near Jerry and now in the hands of Mrs. Turner.

Another weaver of mention was Lydia Beverage wife of Washington Beverage of near Buckeye on Dry Creek, her first loom was used before her by

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Beverage made her a loom with which she wove for many people as she wove coverlets, blankets, carpet, and linen towels, she wove until about 1920 .

Hannah Cloonan wife of Timothy Caddonan was born 1813 was the daughter of George Kee who came from Ireland, she was taught to weave at an early age as she wove all the bed clothing, their dresses and in fact wove all the cloth that went to make their clothing, she wove for other people carpet 10cts a yard, lincy 10cts and flannel 15 cts a yard

Jonathan McNeill was a weaver and dyer he wove at what is the entrance to McClintic farms today, he made his own dyes as did the rest of the old weavers.

Very few people living today are able to weave but one exception is Georgie Loudermilk of near Buckeye who learned to weave when a young girl but has not wove for several years but she remembers most of the drafts as they were called the following are some of them and the one who copied and wove by them Virginia Fancy. by Mrs. Newton Duffield, The Rising Sun by Jane McNeill, The Double Rose Jane Adkison 1848. The Kings Flower. Petersburg Beauty by Mrs J A Moore. 1921. ^MAlbernarl Beauty by Jane McNeill 1846. The Golden Wheels & Diamonds. The Leaf & Square by Nancy Roake 1897. Four Wheels. The Blazing Star. Royal Beauty. by Georgie Loudermilk. 1912 The Pine Knot. Young Mans Fancy. Mountain Life by Maude Loudermilk (now Mrs. F. C

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(pts) 1914). The Ginny Hen by Nancy Roakes. The Bow Knot. The Globe. The Seat Woven by Jane McNeill. The True Lovers Knot came to this county in 1884 from Lost Creek W. Va. All of these patterns were wove by our pioneer weavers and today these drafts are cherished by Mrs A. W McNeill of Buckeye as her mother Lydia Beverage wove from these same drafts years ago as well as the ones that made the patterns and whose names are attached.

The following were weavers Georgie Loudermilk, Jane Adkison, Katie Hannah, Susan Rogers, Elizabeth McNeill, Mary McNeill, Jane Kinnison, Catherine Armstrong, Francis Cundiff, Mildred Kee, Elizabeth Buckley, and Malissa Fleming all of the Swago Community. Nancy Syms, Angeline Gaylor and Catherine Underwood of Beaver Creek, and many others .

Carey Davis of Marlinton who has very poor eyesight learned the weaving trade while at school this was about 1911 he wove carpet, rugs and chair seats much of his ware is found in and near Marlinton but due to his eyesight he stopped operating temporarily. Price Kessler of Greenbank who lost his eyesight several years ago made brooms at his shop just above Greenbank these brooms found a ready sale and were sold throughout the county and other parts of the state.

Just after the revolutionary war the late Frederick Phillips who was a wheel right installed a lathe made looms, spinning wheels, spools, spool frames. These were the Harvey livery barns on

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s and chairs,his looms and spinning wheels found ready sale all over
Pocahontas County and especially the Greenbank community.

The loom and Spinning wheel era played a very important part in the
development of Pocahontas County,as this was their sole way of getting cloth-
ing and bedding as there was very few stores and money was very scarce there-
fore it fell upon the shoulders of the mothers and daughters to supply these
essential articles for the entire family .Some of these articles are cherish-
ed very dearly by the people of this county ,not only are they keepsakes of
high value but you can see the quality of the product made in the many homes
by hand by the wives of our forefathers that blazed the way that we today mig-
ht have a more abundant ~~XXI~~ life.

We might have looms in operation today but factory weaving is much
faster,production larger as it would be almost impossible to supply the cloth-
ing needs of today by the wheel and the loom,nevertheless we have here in Poca-
hontas County today some few people using the spinning wheel and occasionally
a loom in operation,but the latter used in making carpet more than anything else.
Information---Mrs Mary Turner & Maggie Ruckman Millpoint.W.Va.
Mrs.A.W McNeill; Georgie Loudermilk Buckeye.W.Va.
C.W Priest & Carey Davis Marlinton.W.Va.
R.W Browns History of Greenbank District.(a part)

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